

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PA/M:FGWISNER:PLS

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith TEXT JOSEPH ALSOP COLUMN FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1974, WASHINGTON POST HEADED "THE MESSAGE FROM THE SUMMIT"
2. DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S TALK ABOUT PEACE, THE LOGIC OF WHAT HAS NOW HAPPENED IN THE SOVIET UNION IS BLEAKLY SIMPLE. PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER TRIED EVERYTHING BUT MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE TALKS ABOUT STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. THEY FAILED, AS ANYONE CAN SEE WHO READS THE BRIEFINGS AND COMMUNIQUEs WITH AN INFORMED EYE.
3. AS NOTED IN THE LAST REPORT IN THIS SPACE, THE FAILURE WAS PREDICTABLE. THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT CONCEDE TO THE SOVIETS ABSOLUTE SUPERIORITY IN STRATEGIC WEAPONRY.

4. IN MOSCOW, MEANWHILE, THE SOVIET PROFESSIONAL MILITARY

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MEN HEADED BY THE POWERFUL MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MARSHAL

ANDREI A. GRECHKO, HAVE THE WHIP HAND IT ALL DECISIONS OF THE KIND. THE MILITARY LEADERS WOULD HAVE HAD TO AGREE TO STOPPAGES, OR EVEN TO ROLLBACKS, IN EXISTING WEAPONS PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE" IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

5. ASKING MARSHAL GRECHKO TO ROLL BACK AN EXISTING PROGRAM FOR STRATEGIC WEAPONS CAN PROBABLY BE BEST COMPARED TO ASKING GEN. CURTIS LEMAY TO SCRAP LARGE NUMBERS OF OUR AIR FORCE'S BIG BOMBERS IN THE OLD DAYS. AND MARSHAL GRECHKO, AS NOTED, HAD A VETO ON SUCH ROLLBACKS.

6. THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE, AS ALSO NOTED, COULD NOT POSSIBLY GIVE MARSHAL GRECHKO WHAT HE WANTED- WHICH WAS THE AGREED SOVIET STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY BUILT INTO ALL THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR ONGOING SALT TALKS IN THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF. THUS WHAT HAPPENED WAS FOREDOOMED.

7. LOGICALLY, THEN, WHAT HAS RESULTED FROM THE RECENT MEETING IN THE SOVIET UNION MEANS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE GRIMLY DETERMINED TO GO ON BUILDING UP THEIR MILITARY POWER IN EVERY AREA OF ANY IMPORTANCE, REGARDLESS OF COST, AT THE UTMOST SPEED THAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE AND WITHOUT ANY KNOWN LIMITS. THIS POSES THE KIND OF QUESTION FOR THE UNITED STATES THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH TRAGICALLY REFUSED TO FACE IN THE EARLY 1930S, WHEN ADOLF HITLER BEGAN THE GERMAN ARMS BUILDUP THAT PRODUCED WORLD WAR II.

8. THE KIND OF FIDDLE-FADDLE, COMMUNIQUE-ORIENTED AGREEMENTS REACHED IN MOSCOW MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONCEAL THIS CENTRAL FACT. AS ADM. ELMO ZUMWALT DESPAIRINGLY CONFESSED THE OTHER DAY, THE UNITED STATES, BY RECKLESS SELF-INDULGENCE, HAS EVEN PERMITTED CONTROL OF THE SEAS TO PASS TO THE SOVIET NAVY.

9. IN THE SPHERE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, IN OTHER WORDS, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOW HAVE TO WORK HARD AND INVEST HEAVILY MERELY TO RESTORE THE BALANCE IN KEY AREAS, LIKE CONTROL OF THE SEAS. IN SOME AREAS, WE CANNOT RESTORE THE BALANCE.

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HOW CAN WE DO SO, WITH OUR MISERABLE HANDFUL OF INFANTRY DIVISIONS AGAINST THE HUNDREDS OF SOVIET DIVISIONS?

10. CONCERNING THESE MATTERS, ONE MAY BE SURE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO SAY. THEY EVEN SAID NOTHING, ONE MAY BE SURE, ABOUT THE ENORMOUS INCREASE IN SOVIET TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BOTH ON THE NATO FRONT AND ALONG THE

CHINESE BORDER. THE SOLE NIXON-BREZHNEV TOPIC OARY.
TIAL EQUIVALENCE" (OR PARITY) IN STRATEGIC WEAPONRY.

11.THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD ALSO ADOPT-
ED A RATHER HUMBLE AIM BEFORE LEAVING FOR RUSSIA. BEFORE
THEIR DEPARTURE, THEY HAD AGREED THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED
WITH A "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH." AGAINST THE BACKGROUND
OF THE OUTRAGEOUS PRIOR SOVIET PROPOSALS IN RECENT SALT

TALKS, THIS PIECE OF GOBBLEDYGOOK MERELY MEANT THAT OUR
SIDE WOULD BE DELIGHTED BY A SOVIET AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD A RIGHT TO PURSUE OVERWHELMING
STRATEGIC PREPONDERANCE.

12. EVEN A "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH," HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE
CALLED INTO QUESTION THE NEW SOVIET PROGRAM FOR A WHOLE
SERIES OF FAR MORE POWERFUL AND EFFICIENT ICBMS AND SUB-
MARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES OF GREAT RANGE. SO THERE WAS NOT
EVEN A "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH." THUS WE CANNOT ANY
LONGER DODGE THE CENTRAL QUESTION, WHETHER TO "GO ON WITH
THE ARMS RACE" -- AS THE MORE ASININE AMERICAN ACADEMICS
NOW SAY.

13. THE SAME PHRASE ABOUT THE "ARMS RACE" WAS USED BY THE
BRITISH AND FRENCH INTELLECTUAL FOREFATHERS OF THESE
AMERICAN ACADEMICS -- THE PEOPLE WHO MAINLY PREVENTED A
SENSIBLE RESPONSE TO ADOLF HITLER'S GERMAN REARMAMENT. AND
IF WE FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THIS SORT OF PEOPLE NOW, WE CAN
TOO EASILY END IN ANOTHER CORNERED-RAT-LIKE SITUATION. SISCO

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